

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1215

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTNOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR MELONE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, OTRA, XY

SUBJ: MALI JUBILANT ABOUT CEAO COMMUNIQUE

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0831

1. ARTICLE IN APRIL 10 EDITION OF GOVERNMENT NEWS-PAPER, L'ESSOR, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY HAD HIGHEST GOM APPROVAL, NOTES THAT THE CEAO SUMMIT WAS A SUCCESS AND THAT MALI HAS FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, L'ESSOR ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER CONFLICT HAS PUT A STRAIN ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE EARLIER WALKOUT OF THE MALI DELEGATION AT THE PREVIOUS CEAO MEETING IS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE. THE L'ESSOR ARTICLE EXPLAINS THAT THE WALKOUT OCCURRED QUOTE "NOT BECAUSE OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MALIAN WISH TO DISRUPT AN ORGANIZATION CREATED IN

ITS CAPITAL AND FOR WHICH IT HAS MADE RECOGNIZED
AND LABORIOUS EFFORTS, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE AT
FARAMANA AND LOME, ESPECIALLY AT LOME, AGREEMENTS
HAD BEEN MADE AND IT WAS URGENT TO RESPECT THEM"
UNQUOTE.

2. THE ARTICLE THEN NOTES THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE IS
A BROAD RANGE OF INTERESTS AMONG MEMBER STATES OF THE
CEAO, PCOGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION COULD NOT BE MADE
UNLESS THE PROBLEM OF MALIANS WORKING FOR CEAO IN
OUAGADOUGOU WAS RECOGNIZED. HAPPILY, ACCORDING TO THE
ARTICLE, TWO STATEMENTS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE RESOLVE
THIS ISSUE. THEY ARE: QUOTE "THE CONFERENCE REGRETS THAT
BECAUSE OF THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA,
IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS, MALIAN OFFICIALS WORKING IN
OUAGADOUGOU HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES. THE CONFERENCE
DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT
OF UPPER VOLTA AND OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CEAO TO
THE URGENT NECESSITY TO RESPECT THE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY
WHICH PROTECTS
CEAO OFFICIALS." UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE
COMMENTS THAT THESE SENTENCES IN THE CEAO COMMUNIQUE-
REFERRED TO AS QUOTE THE LOVELY GIVT UNQUOTE (JOLI CADEAU)
CONSTITUTE A VICTORY FOR MATURITY, POLITICAL COURAGE
AND TRUTH. FINALLY, THE CONFERENCE AT NIAMEY
IS CHARACTERIZED BY L'ESSOR AS A VICTORY OF AFRICAN
SAGACITY. MEMBER STATES CAN NOW COOPERATE IN THE
FACT OF GENERALIZED INFLATION AND THE ENERGY CRISIS.
THE CEAO CAN BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT TO PROMOTE
HARMONY AND DEVELOPMENT THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY MALI DREW OPPOSITE CONCLUSION
FROM UPPER VOLTA (SEE OUAGADOUGOU'S 0831)
AND OTHER COUNTRY DELEGATIONS (NIAMEY'S 1372). ABOUT
CEAO COMMENT OF TREATMENT MALIAN OFFICIALS.
L'ESSOR COMMENT INDICATES THAT MALI DISPOSITION WILL
HENCEFORTH BE TO GIVE FULL COOPERATION TO CEAO HAVING
WON WHAT IT REGARDS AS IMPORTANT MORAL/DIPLOMATIC
VICTORY. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SCEPTICAL THAT MALI'S
BLUSTERING AT TWO SUCCESSIVE CEAO MEETINGS IS BEST WAY TO
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WIN FAVOR WITH WEST AFRICAN NEIGHBORS SEVERAL OF WHOM
ARE RIGHT NOW PONDERING JUSTICE OF RIVAL BORDER CLAIMS.
MCGUIRE

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